

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMCONSUL HAMILTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1861

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAMILTON 258

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, MILI, PINT, BD

SUBJ: LABOR DISPUTE AT NAS BERMUDA

REF: HAMILTON 255

1. SEPT. 16 TV 6:30 PM NEWSCAST ZFB SHOWED INTERVIEW WITH EUGENE BLAKENEY, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE BIU. BLAKENEY READ FROM LETTER TO SIMMONS FROM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR EUR/NE PAUL CANNEY STATING DEPARTMENT GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND PRIVILEGES PACKAGE OBTAINED BY KW WORKERS THROUGH GOB NEGOTIATIONS WITH KWCC WERE SIMILAR THOSE WHICH WORKERS WOULD OBTAIN FROM BIU RECOGNITION. BLAKENEY USED LETTER TO ACCUSE GOB WITH INTERVENTION IN AND INTERFERENCE WITH LABOR DISPUTE. BLAKENEY ADDED WHEN GOB INTERVENED WHY DIDN'T IT DO SO IN FAVOR OF BIU RECOGNITION. THE UNION HAS AN INDUSTRY-WIDE AGREEMENT AND AS A BERMUDIAN INSTITUTION IT AND NOT KWCC SHOULD RECEIVE GOB SUPPORT.

2. COMMENT: DISCLOSURE THAT GOB HAD EXERTED INFLUENCE ON KWCC LEGAL COUNSEL TO OBTAIN PRIVILEGES PACKAGE EMBARRASSING TO GOB WHICH OUTWARDLY WISHED TO MAINTAIN NEUTRAL POSITION LETTING ITS ROLE LEAK OUT WITHOUT
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FORMAL STATEMENT. GOB DENYING ANY ROLE IN KWCC PACKAGE

(PARA 4 REFTEL).

3. ZFB TV IS BLACK OWNED AND PRO PLP (OPPOSITION) AND LABOR AT LEAST GOB THINKS SO. IRA PHILIPS NEWS EDITOR WHO INTERVIEWED BLAKENEY REFUSED TO USE GOB RELEASE ACCORDING TO MIN. LABOR WOOLRIDGE AND PLAYED BLAKENEY BIT INSTEAD. WOOLRIDGE IS ADVERTISING MANAGER OF ZBM RIVAL OF ZFB AND ONLY OTHER BDA. STATION. PHILIPS IS BROTHER OF LEADER BLACK MUSLIMS IN BERMUDA.

4. BIU PRESIDENT SIMMONS WILL GO TO ANY EXTREME OR MEANS TO OBTAIN THE BIU RECOGNITION. FAILURE WOULD ELIMINATE HIM AT LEAST TEMPORARILY FROM POLITICAL FOREGROUND AND ERODE HIS ALREADY TENUOUS CONTROL OF LABOR MOVEMENT BERMUDA. HE HAS ALREADY EMBROILED AFL-CIO, BRITISH TUC, IFBWW, BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. WHAT NEXT ?
MCCUE

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Message Attributes

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